

ELLEN O'RORKE.

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JANUARY 26, 1897.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

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Mr. McCLELLAN, from the Committee on Invalid Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 8868.]

The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 8868) granting a pension to Ellen O'Rorke, having considered the same respectfully report:

The beneficiary claims pension on account of services as an army nurse, but her claim in the Pension Bureau was rejected on the ground of no record of claimant's service or other evidence of her employment as nurse by recognized competent authority.

Evidence filed with the committee shows that during the months of February and March, 1862, she was employed as nurse at Dr. Robertson's hospital, on Fairfax street, Alexandria, Va., and before and after that was employed at the Lincoln, Carver, and Douglass Hill hospitals (the definite time at each not stated), and that her residence in Washington was utilized as a hospital for the Irish Brigade for a long period, and that she nursed Sergeant McCarty at the Lincoln Hospital for three months prior to his death from wounds.

Her brother Maj. William Horgan was killed in battle, and her brother Dennis Horgan contracted rheumatism from which he never recovered; and other relatives were in the service, one cousin, an adopted son of claimant, killed in the battle of the Wilderness, Virginia.

During nearly three years, at every opportunity, she gave of her money and time to the nursing and caring for sick and wounded soldiers, but never received any pay or reimbursement for either time or money, and at the time gave it freely without hope of reward; and the families of her relatives, whose lives were lost, have been since the war greatly dependent upon her.

She is now old—over 60—in straitened circumstances, and infirm in health, and for her meritorious services the committee urgently recommend the passage of the bill, after being amended by inserting the word "twelve" immediately before the word "dollars" in line 7.